

I. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against ~~[[the]]~~ a user's stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive ~~[[the]]~~ said penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting ~~[[the]]~~ said penetrating member against ~~[[the]]~~ said stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to ~~[[the]]~~ said piston and bias said piston ~~out of~~ towards said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a ~~latching~~ locking mechanism wherein said ~~latching~~ locking mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and a releasing mechanism for disengaging said ~~latching~~ locking mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston ~~against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum,~~ wherein said piston is configured to engage a substantially thin and flat member and to transmit said impact force to said thin and flat member.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device of Claim 1, ~~for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum~~

~~corneum; and wherein said body and piston are adapted to be releasably engaged by the use of a single hand.~~

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device of Claim 1, for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; and wherein [[the]] said latching locking mechanism includes interengaging latch releasably engaging lock members on [[the]] said body and piston.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device of Claim 3, wherein for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; and said releasably engaging lock members comprise a flexible finger on said body and a ~~[[stop]]~~ catch on said piston wherein said flexible finger and said stop comprise said interengaging latch members.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device of Claim 1, for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; and wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device of Claim 5, for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism; and wherein said latching locking mechanism and said piston releasing mechanism are adapted to allow one handed operation of each mechanism.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device of Claim 5, further comprising for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an

~~impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; and a cap movably mounted on said body for activating [[the]] said releasing mechanism when said cap is moved [[onto]] on said body[[:]] and wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism.~~

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device of Claim 7, further comprising for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; a cap movably mounted on said body for activating the releasing mechanism when said cap moved onto said body; and wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism; and a hold down spring disposed between [[the]] said body and [[the]] said cap for resisting [[the]] activation of [[the]] said release mechanism until said hold down spring has been sufficiently energized such that said hold down spring exerts a predetermined hold down force.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device of Claim 7, further comprising for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably

~~disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; a cap movably mounted on said body for activating the releasing mechanism when said cap moved onto said body; and wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism; and a rotational lock mechanism for preventing movement of said cap relative to said body whereby activation of [[the]] said release mechanism is prevented.~~

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device of Claim 1, further comprising ~~impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; a cap movably mounted on said body for activating the releasing mechanism when said cap moved onto said body; and wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism; a lock mechanism for preventing movement of said cap relative to said body whereby activation of the release mechanism is prevented; and an indicator for indicating when said cap is in [[said]] a locked position.~~

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device of Claim 1, for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; and wherein said latching locking mechanism automatically locks said piston in a cocked position with respect to said body when said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device of Claim 1, for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; and wherein said piston includes an application surface having a shape and size which provides for an effective application of the specific patch to be impacted said penetrating member.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device of Claim 12, for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; said first end adapted to receive the penetrating member; a piston slidably disposed

~~within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to the piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a latching mechanism wherein said latching mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum; said piston further includes an application surface having a shape and size which provides for an effective application of the specific patch to be impacted; and wherein said application surface has a shape selected from the group consisting of a convex shape, a substantially planar shape and a shape configured to ~~mate with~~ conform to a predetermined body surface site.~~

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A device for impacting a microblade array against ~~[[the]]~~ a user's stratum corneum, ~~[[the]]~~ said device comprising: a microblade array; a device body; a piston mounted within ~~[[the]]~~ said device body, ~~[[the]]~~ said piston having a microblade array applying surface wherein said applying surface is configured to engage a substantially thin and flat member and to transmit impact force to said thin and flat member; an impact spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said piston to impact ~~[[the]]~~ said stratum corneum with ~~[[the]]~~ said microblade array; a cap movably mounted on ~~[[the]]~~ said device body; a hold down spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said cap; a ~~latching~~ locking mechanism for locking ~~[[the]]~~ said piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and piston together; and a piston release for releasing ~~[[the]]~~ said piston from ~~[[the]]~~ said cocked position to impact ~~[[the]]~~ said stratum corneum with ~~[[the]]~~ said microblade array when ~~[[the]]~~ said hold down spring is compressed.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device of Claim 14, wherein said ~~for impacting a microblade array against the stratum corneum, the device comprising: a device body; a piston mounted within the device body, the piston having a microblade array applying surface; an impact spring acting between the device body and the piston to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade; a cap movably mounted on the device body; a hold down spring acting~~

~~between the device body and the cap; a latching mechanism for locking the piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing the device body and piston together; and a piston release comprising comprises a release finger for releasing the piston from the cocked position to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade array when the hold down spring is compressed.~~

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) A device for impacting a microblade array against the stratum corneum, the device comprising: a device body; a piston mounted within the device body, the piston having a microblade array applying surface; an impact spring acting between the device body and the piston to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade; a cap movably mounted on the device body; a hold down spring acting between the device body and the cap; a latching mechanism for locking the piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing the device body and piston together; and a piston release comprising a release finger for releasing the piston from the cocked position to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade array when the hold down spring is compressed.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The device of Claim 14, wherein for impacting a microblade array against the stratum corneum, the device comprising: a device body; a piston mounted within the device body, the piston having a microblade array applying surface; an impact spring acting between the device body and the piston to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade; a cap movably mounted on the device body; a hold down spring acting between the device body and the cap, said hold down spring is adapted to resist [[the]] activation of [[the]] said piston release until a predetermined hold down force is reached[;]] a latching mechanism for locking the piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing the device body and piston together; and a piston release for releasing the piston from the cocked position to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade array when the hold down spring is compressed.~~

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A method of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against ~~[[the]]~~ a user's stratum corneum, the method comprising: moving a piston to a cocked position with respect to a device body[;]] ~~, wherein said piston is configured to engage a substantially thin and flat member;~~ and locking ~~[[the]]~~ said piston in ~~[[the]]~~ said cocked position, whereby ~~[[the]]~~ said device can be cocked and locked using only one hand.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising: moving a piston to a cocked position [[by]] comprises moving [[the]] said piston along [[the]] an axis of [[the]] said device body; and locking said piston in the cocked position; wherein the device can be cocked and locked using only one hand.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of locking said piston is automatic cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising: moving a piston to a cocked position with respect to a device body; and locking the piston in the cocked position, whereby the device can be cocked and automatically locked using only one hand.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of locking said piston is manual cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising: moving a piston to a cocked position with respect to a device body; and locking the piston in the cocked position, whereby the device can be cocked and manually locked using only one hand.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A method of impacting a penetrating member against [[the]] a user's stratum corneum, the method comprising: providing an impacting device having a device body, a piston, and an impact spring, wherein said piston is configured to engage a substantially thin and flat member and to transmit impact force to said thin and flat member; cocking [[the]] said impacting device using only one hand by moving [[the]] said piston and [[the]] said device body together to a cocked position and locking [[the]] said piston in [[the]] said cocked position; providing said impacting device with a penetrating member; mounting said penetrating member on said piston; and releasing said piston to impact [[the]] said penetrating member against [[the]] said stratum corneum.

Claim 23. (New) A device for impacting a penetrating member against a user's stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; a retainer at said first end of said body, wherein said retainer is adapted to releasably secure a substantially thin and flat member; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting said penetrating member against said stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to said piston and bias said piston towards said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a locking mechanism wherein said locking mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and a releasing mechanism for disengaging said locking mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston.

Claim 24. (New) A device for impacting a penetrating member against a user's stratum corneum comprising: a body having a first end and a second end; a penetrating member comprising a microprotrusion array disposed at said first end; a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting said penetrating member against said stratum corneum; an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to said piston and bias said piston towards said first end of said body; wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body; a locking mechanism wherein said locking mechanism releasably engages said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and a releasing mechanism for disengaging said locking mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston.